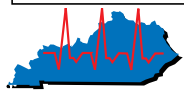


KENTUCKY'S ENVIRONMENT

The Newsletter of the Environmental Quality Commission

Volume 15, No. 4

July-August 1999



EQC Reports on Environmental Trends and Conditions

The Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission recently issued its fourth update to the State of Kentucky's Environment report. The good news is that we have made significant progress in restoring the quality of our land, water, and air—all while our population has increased and our economy has grown. While these improvements are encouraging, trends also reveal that progress has slowed and in some cases we have lost ground.

Trends Show Water Quality May Be Declining

After years of improving trends, data reveal that in 1997 the percent of waterways impacted by pollution rose to 33%. This was a slight increase from 1995 when 31% of the monitored waterways were impaired by pollution but nonetheless an important indicator that we may be losing ground when it comes to restoring our waterways.

Polluted runoff from agriculture operations remains the greatest source of water pollution, followed by coal mining, and sewage treatment plants. These sources account for more than half of the pollution problems found in monitored waterways.

Disease-Carrying Pathogens Threaten Many Waterways

Disease-carrying pathogens remain the principal water pollutant in Kentucky. Hundreds of miles of waterways have been declared off limits to swimming due to high levels of bacteria in the water. While millions of dollars have been invested to improve sewage treatment, the State of Kentucky's Environment report reveals that problems remain. During 1997, 66% of the more than 3,000 wastewater treatment plants operating in Kentucky had one or more violations of clean water rules.

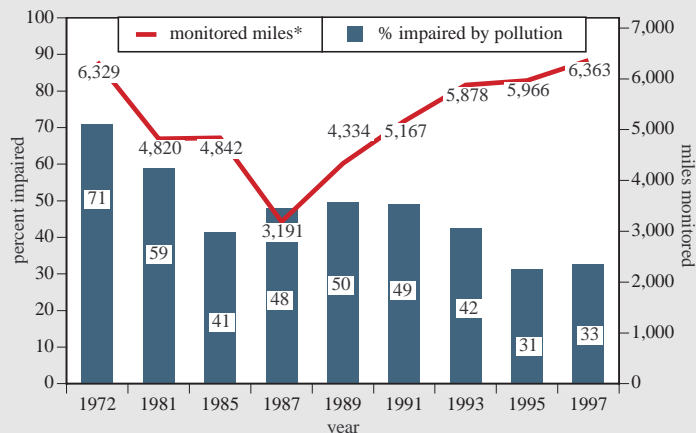
Failing Septic Tanks, Straight Pipes Require Attention

While it is not known how many failing septic systems and illegal straight pipes there are, it is considered a widespread problem across the state. A 1998 state law to prohibit the connection of electricity to a new residence unless the owner has an approved plan to install sewage-disposal facilities has already had positive results. Pike County alone has reported a 400% increase in on-site sewage permits. But we still have a long way to go to address the thousands of failing septic systems

EQC

is a seven-member citizen board that advises officials on environmental matters, provides a public forum for the discussion of issues, and monitors environmental conditions. To receive the free EQC newsletter call 502-564-2150 ext. 160, e-mail EQC@mail.state.ky.us, or write to EQC at 14 Reilly Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601. EQC Internet Web page <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/eqc/eqc.html>. Printed bimonthly with state funds.

Percent of Ky. Waterways Impacted by Pollution



Note: based on monitored river and stream miles. 1972 and 1981 data include river and stream miles monitored and evaluated. Source: Ky. Reports to Congress on Water Quality

and illegal straight pipes that are polluting our waterways.

Air, Waste, Toxics, Drinking Water Trends Reviewed

The report also reviews trends in the areas of drinking water, air quality, waste management, and toxics. Findings include:

- ◆ Trends reveal a decline in the number of drinking water systems with violations. For example, in 1993, 50% of the public drinking water systems had violations of Safe Drinking Water rules compared to 33% in 1997.

- ◆ Private water wells sampled in 1997 found that one out of every two wells tested positive for coliform bacteria.

- ◆ Trends reveal that the decline in air concentrations of various

Continued - back page (see Report)

Serena Williams, Robert Riddle Appointed to EQC

Gov. Paul Patton recently appointed Serena Williams and reappointed Robert Riddle to serve 4-year terms on EQC. Williams is a law professor at the University of Louisville specializing in environmental law and environmental justice. Williams replaces Harold Benson whose term expired. Riddle is director of the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer District. Other commission members are Aloma Dew, Chair (Owensboro); Betsy Bennett, Vice-Chair, (Lexington); Patty Wallace (Louisia); C.V. Bennett, III (Harlan); and Gary Revlett (Shelbyville).

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

Aug. 7 - Two Decades of Geology in the Public Interest - Univ. of Ky. Contact: Jim Cobb, Ky. Geological Survey, 606-257-5500.

Aug. 9-11 - Synergy 1999: For a Sustainable Environment - Hyatt Regency, Lexington. Contact: Bluegrass Regional Recycling Corp. 606-233-7787.

Aug. 12-13 - Conference on Public Health Information - Executive Inn West, Louisville. Contact: Tricia Williams, Dept. for Public Health, 502-564-9592.

Aug. 12-13 - Ky. Environmental Permitting Course - Marriott Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington. Contact: Ky. Chamber of Commerce, 502-695-4700.

Aug. 20 - 12th Annual Ky. Professional Engineers in Mining Seminar - Holiday Inn North, Lexington. Contact: Geaunita Caylor, 606-257-2820.

Aug. 26-30 - North American Association for Environmental Education Conference - Hyatt Regency Cincinnati. Contact: Barb Eager, 706-764-2926, or web site <http://www.naaee.org/html/conf.htm>

Sept. 17-18 - Ky. Wood Expo - Agricultural Exposition Center, Bowling Green. Contact: KFLA, 502-695-3979.

Sept. 19 - Ky. Conservation Comm. Annual Meeting - Contact: 502-227-9555.

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 - Ky. Environmental Law Compliance Course - Seelbach Hilton, Louisville. Contact: Gov't Institutes Div., ABS Group, Inc. 301-921-2345.

PUBLIC NOTICES/HEARINGS

Ky. Division of Water - KPDES Water Permit Notices

*65 Water Discharge Permit Issuances/Reissuances - (Public Notice 99 19-23). Contact: Judy Ziegler, 502-564-3410, ext. 465.

*Louisville Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District - reissuance for existing storm water discharges from a large municipal storm sewer system (NPDES KYS000001). **Public Hearing July 22, 7 pm**, Univ. of Louisville Shelby Campus, Burhans Hall, West Wing, 9001 Shelbyville Rd, Louisville. Contact: Herb Ray, 502-564-3410.

Ky. Division of Waste Management - Hazardous Waste Notices

*Elf Atochem, Carrollton (Carroll Co.) - Receipt of Part B renewal application to store hazardous waste in containers on 2 storage pads and in six storage/treatment tanks. The plant also operates a blending unit and an incinerator. Contact: Michael Welch, 502-564-6716, ext. 246.

Ky. Div. of Waste Management - Underground Storage Tanks

*Lowe's Grocery, HC 86, Monticello (Wayne Co.) (1004-116)

*Shively's Auto Service, 1807 South Dixie Blvd., Radcliff (Hardin Co.) (3423-047). *Nancy's Grocery, Coburg Spur and Hwy. 55, Coburg (Adair Co.) (1836-001). *Watkins Food and Gas, 3273 Coral Ridge Rd., Brooks (Bullitt Co.) (9001-015). *Staffordshire Happy Mart, Route 40 and Little Mud Lick Rd. (Johnson Co.) (4079-058). *Ernie's Garage, 16881 Hwy. 68E, Aurora (Marshall Co.) (2501-079).

Contact: Roy Johnson, UST Branch, 502-564-6716, ext. 223.

U.S. EPA Underground Injection Control Wells - Notices

*Farrar Oil Co., Muhlenberg Co. (KY99UIC011). *Jarvis Drilling, McCreary Co. (KY99UIC012). *Southern States Cooperative, Daviess Co. (KYA0725). *Geigo Co., Henderson Co. (KY99UIC009). The above notices are to issue UIC permits.

*Charles Ray Tussey, Elliott Co. (KY99UIC010). *Blue River Exploration, Hopkins Co. (KY99UIC008). The above notices are to terminate UIC disposal well permits.

Contact: William Mann, US EPA, 404-562-9429, ext. 29452.

continued back page - see Public Notices



Environmental Quality Commission
Meeting Announcement



EQC Public Meeting

July 22, 1999

Room 111, Capitol Annex, Frankfort

Meeting Agenda

- 1 pm Open Meeting
Review air quality, water quality, waste management, surface mining, natural resource proposed regulations
- 2 pm Review of Black Mountain Negotiated Settlement
- 2:30 pm Review of Confined Animal Feeding Operations: Status and Issues
- 3:30 pm Other Business, Adjourn

All EQC meetings are free and open to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. Auxiliary aids, interpreters, and other services will be provided upon request by contacting EQC.

Report - continued from front page

pollutants has essentially leveled out in the past few years.

◆Kentucky leads the nation in the release of ozone-depleting chemicals to the air. During 1996, 21 companies released more than 7 million pounds of 14 ozone-depleting chemicals to the air.

◆75% of Kentucky households are now participating in door-to-door garbage collection—an all-time high

◆In 1997, 28% of Kentucky's solid waste stream was recycled compared to 17% in 1990.

◆A state water-testing program has discovered varying levels of pesticides in springs and water wells. For example, atrazine, a common herbicide used in corn production, was detected in 21% of the springs sampled.

◆During 1998, health departments conducted more than 35,000 lead blood screenings of Ky. children. Tests found that 327 children had lead poisoning and more than 4,000 had levels of concern.

To order a copy of the 1998-99 State of Kentucky's Environment 88-page report with 93 charts depicting environmental trends send a \$10 check payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer to: EQC, 14 Reilly Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601.

PROPOSED STATE REGULATIONS - continued

address zones of initial dilution, and implement the antidegradation policy. **Public hearing July 27, 7pm**, Western Hills H.S. Auditorium, 100 Doctors Dr., Frankfort. *Contact: Dru Hawkins, 502-564-3410 or view the regs at <http://water.nr.state.ky.us/dow/dwhome.htm>*

***Division of Water** - seeking public comment on 5 items to implement a Capacity Development Strategy as described the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. An issue paper is available. **July 20 Public meeting** to discuss the strategy, Farmers Bank, 125 W. Main St. Frankfort. *Contact: Ralph Schiefferle, 502-564-3410.*

FEDERAL NOTICES

***Candidate Status for Two Cumberlandian Region Freshwater Mussels** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pursuing the candidate status of two mussels particularly imperiled in Ky.—the slabside pearlymussel and the fluted kidneyshell. *Contact: Bob Butler, 828-258-3939, ext. 235 (email bob-bulter@fws.gov).*

***Revegetation Success Outreach Initiative** - The U.S. Office of Surface Mining is assessing whether to revise its revegetation success performance standards. A concept paper has been prepared. *Contact: Ervin Barchenger, OSM, 618-463-6463 or see the OSM homepage <http://www.osmre.gov>*

***Jackson County Lake Land Exchange** - The Jackson County Water Assn. is proposing to construct a lake in Jackson County. As part of the proposed project, lands in the Daniel Boone National Forest would be impacted and be exchanged for other lands. *Contact: DBNF London District, 606-864-4163.*

PUBLICATIONS

***Fourth Report on Lake Cumberland Pipeline** - summarizes monitoring results of discharges to Lake Cumberland from the Russell County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. *Contact: Dru Hawkins, Division of Water, 502-564-3410.*

***Kentucky Nonpoint Source Assessment Report** - Lists rivers and streams impacted by runoff pollution and pollutant source. *Contact: Donna Cirrelo, Div. of Water, 502-564-3410, ext. 479.*

***1998-99 State of Kentucky's Environment** - fourth update on condition of environment - 88 page report with 93 charts depicting environmental trends. *Contact: EQC, 502-564-2150, ext. 198.*

Public Notices Continued - from front page

KY. Division for Air Quality - Public Notices

***Title V Operating permit - Amak Brake**, Glasgow (Barren Co.); **Dana Corp.**, Franklin (Simpson Co.); **Desa Intl.**, Bowling Green (Warren Co.); **Dravo Lime**, Butler (Pendleton Co.); **Florida Tile**, Lawrenceburg (Anderson Co.); **Hawley Products**, Paducah (McCracken Co.); **ISP Chemicals**, Calvert City (Marshall Co.); **Louisville Gas & Electric** (Jefferson Co.); **Modine Climate Systems**, Harrodsburg (Mercer); **Publishers Printing**, Lebanon Jct. (Bullitt Co.); **Quebecor Printing**, Franklin (Simpson Co.); **RR Donnelley**, Glasgow (Barren Co.); **Rogers Group**, Hopkinsville (Christian Co.); **Safety Kleen**, Smithfield (Henry Co.); **Van Leer Containers**, Florence (Boone Co.)

***Conditional Major Source Construction/Operating permit (Title V regs do not apply) - Federal Mogul Corp.**, Glasgow (Barren Co.); **Lemforder Rubber Metal**, Hebron (Boone Co.); **Ohio Valley Aluminum Corp.**, Shelbyville (Shelby Co.); **Prime Finish LLC**, Paris (Bourbon Co.); **Summit Polymers**, Elizabethtown (Hardin Co.).

***Conditional Major Source Operating permit (Title V regs do not apply) - Metroweb Corp.**, Erlanger (Boone Co.).

***PSD Construction/Operating permit - Dravco Lime Co.**, Maysville (Mason Co.); **Westvaco Corp.**, Wickliffe (Ballard Co.).

***Synthetic Minor Operating Permit at a Title V Source (PSD regs do not apply) - Osrarn Sylvania Products**, Versailles (Woodford Co.); **RR Donnelley & Sons**, Danville (Boyle Co.).

***Synthetic Minor Construction/Operating Permit (PSD regs do not apply) - Lawson Mardon Packaging**, Shelbyville (Shelby Co.); **VMV Enterprises**, Paducah (McCracken Co.).

***Title V Construction/Operating permit - Lafarge Corp. Gypsum Div.**, Silver Grove (Campbell Co.).

To comment on above air notices contact: Bill Dills, 502-573-3382.

PROPOSED STATE REGULATIONS

***Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board** - proposes to amend 401 KAR 1:0201:030, 1:040, 1:050, 1:060, and 1:070 to refine regulations and reduce unnecessary reporting requirements. *Contact: Joe Dietz, Dept. Natural Resources, 502-564-2184.*

***Division of Water** - proposes to amend water quality standards (401 KAR 5:002, 5:026, 5:029, 5:030, and 5:031) to change use designations of selected streams, change mixing zone requirements,



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